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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT  
FEBRUARY 28-MARCH 1, 2004

THIS REPORT WILL PRESENT A TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER  
THREE THEMES:

HEADLINES  
BRIEFING  
EDITORIAL OPINION

HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

Weston: US will be generous to Cyprus if agreement is  
reached - Milliyet  
Greek Cypriots denounce Annan Plan at weekend rally -  
Hurriyet  
Papandreou: I aim to make the Aegean a sea of Turks and  
Greeks - Sabah  
Israeli court rules against 'security wall' - Turkiye  
Task Force 121 out to get bin Ladin - Hurriyet  
Kurds fired on celebrating Turkmen, 5 wounded - Milliyet  
Greek candidates seek Turkish votes in Western Thrace -  
Milliyet

OPINION MAKERS

Bush Administration launches grand attack for Middle East  
plan - Radikal  
Grossman due to seek support for Middle East project -  
Cumhuriyet 2/29  
Bush launches new Middle East effort - Radikal 2/29  
Schroeder supports US Middle East project - Zaman 2/29  
Arabs angered at the US Greater Middle East project -  
Hurriyet 2/29  
Bush pushes the button for 'Greater Middle East' - Sabah  
2/29  
Denktas: Annan Plan in current form a disaster - Cumhuriyet  
Talat urges Greek Cypriots to disarm - Cumhuriyet  
Washington to spend \$6.3 million for 'Pentagon News Agency'  
- Yeni Safak  
Bin Ladin will be caught this year - US press - Cumhuriyet  
Aristide flees Haiti - Cumhuriyet

BRIEFING

Greater Middle East initiative: State Department U/S Marc  
Grossman is coming to Ankara March 4 to seek Ankara's  
support for the US initiative for democratic reforms in the  
Middle East, says Sunday "Cumhuriyet." The actual motive  
behind the US plan for democratization in the Middle East is  
to control the rich oil resources in the region, the paper  
claims. The ruling AK Party government has voiced eagerness  
to take part in the US project, but the MFA and Turkish  
General Staff are more cautious, the paper notes.

Cyprus: Turkish Cypriot 'Prime Minister' Mehmet Ali Talat  
has criticized the Greek Cypriots' armament efforts and  
urged them to take their missiles off the island. US  
Special Cyprus Coordinator Ambassador Thomas Weston, who  
went to Cyprus on Sunday, said that Washington would extend  
generous financial aid if an agreement is reached between  
the Cypriots. TRNC leader Denktas will be in Ankara on  
Wednesday to attend a Cyprus conference organized by the  
Turkish Union of Chambers (TOBB). State Department U/S Marc  
Grossman will visit Ankara on Thursday as part of a Greater  
Middle East tour, and will also raise the Cyprus issue with  
the MFA, papers report. Greek Cypriot leader Papadopoulos  
has presented Denktas with a new condition that the 114 laws  
envisaged in the UN-sponsored peace plan should be approved  
by the Turks before the referenda on the island on April 21,  
say weekend papers. Papadopoulos has also asked Prime  
Minister Erdogan for written guarantees that the GOT would  
officially accept the referenda results. Denktas blamed  
Papadopoulos for attempting to avoid a referendum, and said

that it was technically impossible to pass 114 laws before the referenda. Saturday's dailies regard the prospects for an agreement before March 22 as 'extremely difficult.' Turkish delegation's meetings in Iraq: Saturday's "Cumhuriyet" writes about the meetings of a Turkish delegation of diplomats and military experts in Iraq last week. The delegation held a meeting with US Commander General Ricardo Sanchez, and found out that US is not planning any military action against the PKK. Turkish military presence in the region cannot be questioned until the PKK ceases to pose a threat to Turkey's security from northern Iraq, the paper says. The delegation discussed with Iraqi Foreign Minister Hosyar Zebari the opening of a second border gate between Iraq and Turkey. The delegation has also met with Iraqi tribal leaders and ethnic groups, but they did not have an opportunity to meet with Paul Bremer, Cumhuriyet notes.

Division in the Kongra-Gel leadership: Kongra-Gel, the continuation of PKK/KADEK, has dismissed Osman Ocalan, the brother of Abdullah Ocalan, from the organization due to disagreements over nominations of candidates in southeastern Turkey in the upcoming local elections on March 28, say Sunday papers. Ocalan and 100 other PKK members left the Kongra-Gel camp in the Kandil mountain, and asked for refuge from the KDP, papers note. Ocalan and friends are under US control in Mosul, papers speculate.

Syrian religious schools close doors to Turks: In a joint security meeting with Syrian officials in Damascus last December, Turkey's Gendarme Commander General Sener Eruygur has asked the Syrians not to enroll Turkish students in theology schools in Syria, say Sunday papers. Syrian head of state Bashar Assad approved the Turkish request. General Eruygur reportedly said at the meetings that the suspects of the suicide bomb attacks in Istanbul were graduates of Syrian theology schools.

#### EDITORIALS

##### "The Giant Plot"

Asli Aydintasbas wrote from Washington in mass appeal Sabah (3/1): "We heard about this new initiative GME for the first time six months ago during President Bush's speech at the 'National Democracy Foundation'. In the speech Bush said 'For years we considered the stability in the middle east more important than democracy. That was a mistake. From now on, we will follow a advanced strategy for the Middle East and the Muslim world's development.' Washington believes that the present situation in the Middle East cannot continue. When there is no democracy, there is terror and violence. Dictators are not good either from economic or from the political angle. For the US's and for the world's safety, democracy, freedom of expression, and free markets are a must. President Bush already shared this thesis with PM Erdogan, and the basics or the initiatives will be announced to the world during the G8 and NATO summits in June. So far nothing is ready; staff members in every unit of the government are trying to fill in the details. According to news leaked to 'El Hayat', the goal is to take the Arab Development Reports (prepared by the UN Development program) as a base, and to complete the three missing issues in the Middle East: Information, education, and the participation of women. Which country do you think is the inspiration for GME?.Yes, you are right, of course, it is Turkey."

##### "The Greater Middle East and the Women"

Ferai Tinc opined in the mass appeal Hurriyet (3/1): "Washington has been discussing the greater Middle East project with its European allies for some time. A/S Marc Grossman's upcoming Ankara visit is the part of these discussions. After the missing parts of this concept are filled by Europe, President Bush will announce the master plan of this project during the G-8 and the NATO summits. When we look at the ongoing discussions in international platforms, the US is planning to support democracy in the Middle East with the same method applied in the Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. Women's rights issue is a very important part of this initiative. In order to support the democratization process, President Bush will call for coordination on the following issues: Deepened political coordination, more aid (Marshal Plan is taken as sample); efforts to ease membership in the world Trade organization, and security coordination. Turkey becomes a 'front line country' in this democratization process. That is what the US officials say. For the time being, these are the basics of this project. I'll let you fill the details."